

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial

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The American Battle Monuments Commission

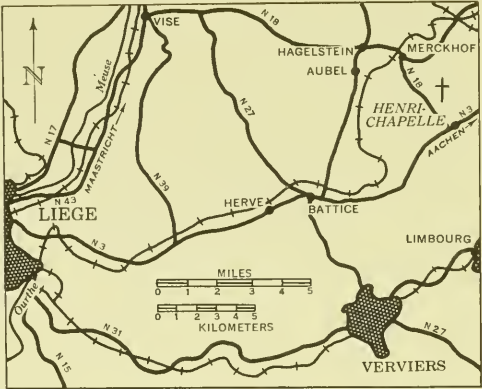
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The Guardian Angel.

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

Henri-Chapelle cemetery and memorial lie 2 miles northwest of the village of Henri-Chapelle which is on the main highway from Liège, Belgium (18 miles) to Aachen, Germany (10 miles). It can be reached by direct train from Paris (Gare du Nord—5½ hours), from Brussels (2 hours) and Liège, Belgium, or from Germany via Aachen, to Herbesthal, Belgium, where there is taxicab service to the cemetery, 2 miles distant. To reach the cemetery by automobile, follow

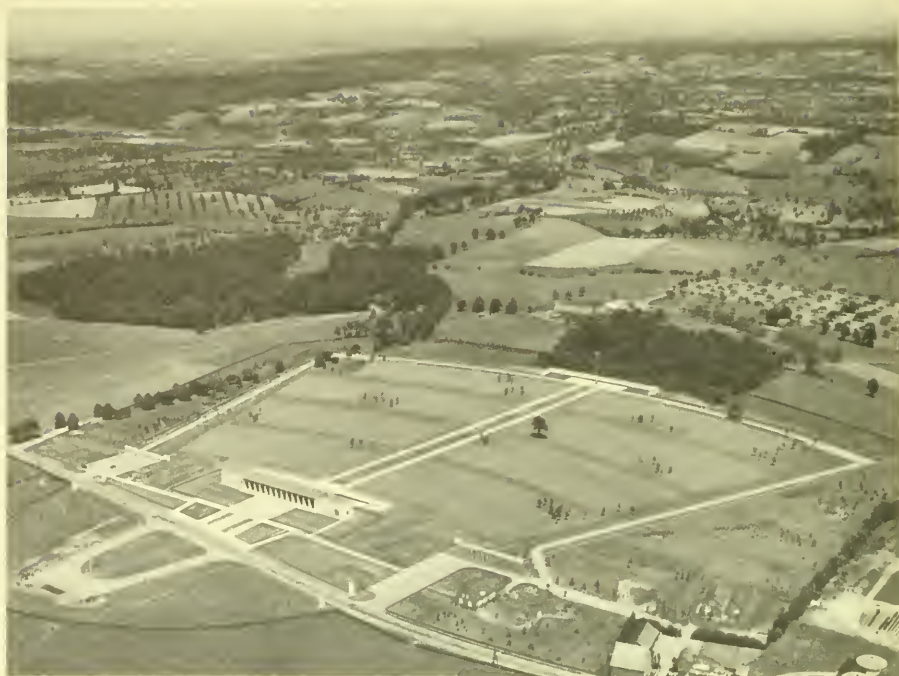
N 3 from Liège or Aachen to the road fork in Henri-Chapelle, thence northwest on N 18 to the cemetery; or, from Margraten follow Aachen highway east approximately 1 mile (1.5 km), then turn right on Aubel road 7.5 miles (12 km) to Hagelstein, thence left on N 18 to the cemetery.

THE SITE

The cemetery, 57 acres in area, lies on the crest of a ridge affording wide prospects to the east and west; the memorial is visible from N 3 several

Entrance Pylons and Memorial.





Aerial View of Cemetery.

miles away. Highway N 18 crosses the reservation between the Memorial-burial area to its east and the overlook to its west.

The site was liberated on 12 September 1944 by troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. A temporary cemetery was established on 28 September 1944 two or three hundred yards to the north of the present site which was selected because of its much more attractive setting. Here rest 7,989 of our military Dead, most of whom gave their lives in the repulse of the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes or during the advance into, and across, Germany during the fall and winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945. Others were lost in air operations over the region.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Holabird, Root and

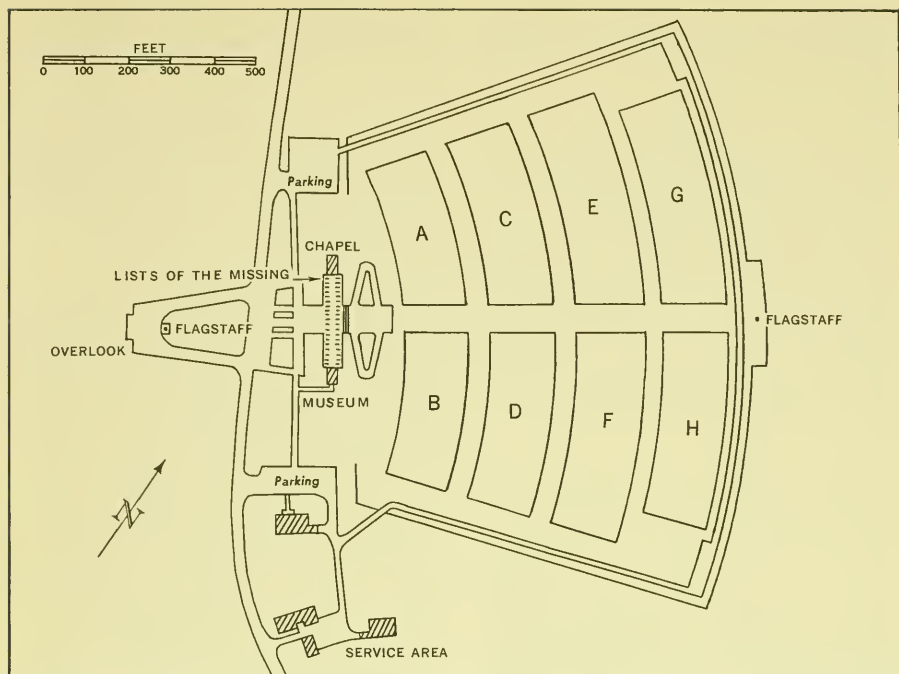
Burgee of Chicago, Illinois. The landscape architect was Franz Lipp of Chicago.

GENERAL LAYOUT

To the west of highway N 18 where it crosses the reservation is the overlook area with its flagstaff. From the west end of this area a wide view is afforded over the broad valley of the Berwinne streamlet (which lies in the sector of advance of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division) and the ridges beyond. The roadway on the overlook is lined with linden trees.

East of the highway is the memorial; there are parking areas at both the north and south ends. Beyond the memorial is the graves area.

The Visitors' room is in the south end of the memorial and can be reached either from the colonnade, or from the south parking area and a door at the south end of the memorial.



Location of Cemetery Features.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of the chapel (north end) and the combined Visitors' and Museum building (south end) connected by a colonnade of 12 pairs of rectangular pylons. East of the colonnade is a wide terrace with ramps leading down to the graves area. The exterior of the memorial is of Massangis limestone from the Cote d'Or region of France. The colonnade, chapel, and museum room are paved with gray St. Gothard granite from Switzerland.

The Memorial is set within a framework of Box hedges (*Buxus sempervirens*), which has been extended to form a border to the paths which lead to the graves area.

In the lawns at each end of the memorial are groups of Weeping willows (*Salix babylonica*); flanking the memorial, north and south of the grass terrace on which it stands, are groups of Serbian Spruce (*Picea Omorika*)

and Norway Spruce (*Picea excelsa*) mixed with Hawthorns (*Crataegus oxyacantha*).

Along the paved approach to the memorial are large beds of pink and scarlet *Polyantha* roses and Geraniums.

THE COLONNADE

On the 48 faces of the 24 pylons, and the 4 faces of the engaged pylons at the ends of the colonnade are engraved the seals of the wartime 48 States, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia. The obverse of the Great Seal of the United States, in bronze, is set into the floor at the intersection of the axes. The names and particulars of 450 of the Missing of the United States Army and Army Air Forces* are engraved on the 48 faces of the

*It will be recalled that during World War II the Air Forces still formed part of the United States Army.

columns. The engaged end pylons bear this inscription in English, French, and Flemish:

HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

These Dead, who gave their lives in our country's service, came from 42 States, the District of Columbia, and England.

In the soffit of the colonnade are 13 stars of golden glass mosaic.

THE CHAPEL

At the entrance to the chapel, on the east side, is the dedicatory inscription:

1941-1945 ☆ ☆ IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The doors of the chapel are bronze with polished panels.

The interior is rectangular in shape and of somewhat austere design. The altar of Belgian blue and French vert d'Issorie marble bears the inscription (from St. John X, 28):

I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH.

The wall behind the altar is of Belgian blue marble with white veinings. The south wall is of French green Issorie marble. Hung along the west wall are flags of the Air Force, Armor, Christian Chapel, Jewish Chapel, Engineers, Field Artillery, Infantry, and Navy Infantry Battalion. Engraved on the same wall beneath the flags is this inscription from Cardinal Newman's prayer:

O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND OUR WORK IS DONE. THEN IN THY

MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING AND A HOLY REST AND PEACE AT THE LAST.

The pews are of walnut and were fabricated in Holland. The Cross and the pews were intentionally designed to be off-center (with off-center lighting) thus balancing each other.

THE MUSEUM ROOM

At the opposite (south) end of the colonnade is the combined museum and visitors' room; the doors, similar to those of the chapel, are of dark bronze with polished panels inset. Built into the west interior wall, of English Portland Whitbed stone, is a map portraying the military operations in northwestern Europe from the landings in Normandy until the end of the war. This map is of Swedish black granite; the geographical and military data are indicated by means of inlaid mosaic, engraved and colored chases, anodized aluminum, bronze, etc. Amplifying the map are inscriptions in English, French, and Flemish, of which this is the English version:

ON 6 JUNE 1944, PRECEDED BY AIRBORNE UNITS AND COVERED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES LANDED ON THE COAST OF NORMANDY. PUSHING SOUTHWARD THEY ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD SOME 20 MILES IN DEPTH. ON 25 JULY, IN THE WAKE OF A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE U.S. FIRST ARMY BROKE OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD WEST OF ST LO. ON 1 AUGUST IT WAS JOINED BY THE U.S. THIRD ARMY. TOGETHER THEY REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK TOWARDS AVRANCHES. CRUSHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST AND THE BRITISH ON THE NORTH, AND ATTACKED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE U.S. AND BRITISH AIR FORCES THE ENEMY RETREATED ACROSS THE SEINE.

SUSTAINED BY THE HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARMY AND NAVY

SUPPLY PERSONNEL, THE ALLIED GROUND AND AIR FORCES PURSUED VIGOROUSLY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER THE U.S. NINTH ARMY HAD LIBERATED BREST; THE FIRST ARMY HAD SWEEPED THROUGH FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND LUXEMBOURG AND WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY; THE THIRD ARMY HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE AND HAD JOINED FORCES WITH THE U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES ADVANCING NORTHWARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. ON THE LEFT FLANK, BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAD ENTERED THE NETHERLANDS. ON 17 SEPTEMBER THE IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE DROPPED THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS IN THE EINDHOVEN-ARNHEM AREA IN A BOLD BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE CROSSINGS OF THE LOWER RHINE.

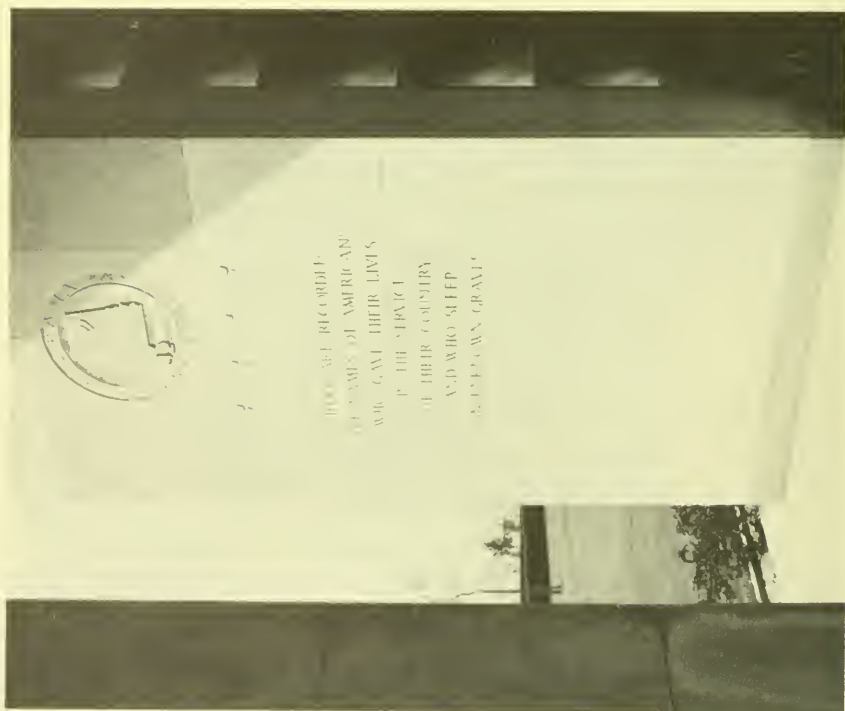
PROGRESS DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING BITTER AS OPPOSITION STIFFENED.

THE OPENING OF THE PORT OF ANTWERP ON 28 NOVEMBER MATERIALLY EASED THE LOGISTICAL BURDEN. THE FIRST AND NINTH ARMIES BROKE THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE AND CAPTURED AACHEN. METZ FELL AS THE THIRD ARMY PUSHED TO THE SAAR. ON ITS RIGHT, THE SEVENTH ARMY AIDED BY THE FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE DROVE TO THE RHINE AT STRASBOURG, WHILE FRENCH TROOPS FREED MULHOUSE. THEN, IN THE ARDENNES, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE. PROMPT TACTICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN FINALLY HALTED THIS DRIVE. A CONCURRENT OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED BETWEEN SAARBRUCKEN AND COLMAR MET THE SAME FATE.

DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF HIGHLY SUC-

Memorial Chapel.





The Colonnade Inscription.



The Colonnade—Names of the Missing.

CESSFUL OPERATIONS. ON 7 MARCH AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED THE ONE REMAINING UNDEMOLISHED BRIDGE AT REMAGEN. A SURPRISE CROSSING WAS EFFECTED AT OPPENHEIM ON 22 MARCH. THEN, IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS ALLIED TROOPS SPEARHEADED BY A MASSIVE AIRBORNE ASSAULT MADE THEIR MAJOR ASSAULT CROSSING NEAR WESEL. PUSHING RAPIDLY EASTWARD U.S. FORCES ENCIRCLED THE ENTIRE RUHR VALLEY IN A GIGANTIC DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. WITH AIR AND GROUND FORCES OPERATING AS A TEAM, THE ALLIES SWEEPED ACROSS GERMANY TO MEET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE AND FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDING IN FRANCE.

On the south wall is a somewhat smaller map, of materials similar to the other, entitled "Aachen and the advance to the Roer"; it illustrates the military operations in this region. Accompanying this map is an inscribed text, also in three languages, the English version reading as follows:

ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1944 THE U.S. FIRST ARMY CROSSED THE GERMAN FRONTIER NEAR AACHEN. HERE THE BROAD, SWEEPING ADVANCE ACROSS FRANCE AND BELGIUM WAS SLOWED BY THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED SIEGFRIED LINE. STRUGGLING FORWARD AGAINST INCREASING RESISTANCE, INFANTRY AND ARMORED FORCES BROKE THROUGH TO STOLBERG, EAST OF AACHEN. PROGRESS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING OBSTINATE, AS OUR TROOPS FORCED THEIR WAY INTO HURTGEN FOREST TO SCHEVENHUTTE AND BEYOND LAMMERSDORF, THREATENING THE ROER RIVER DAMS.

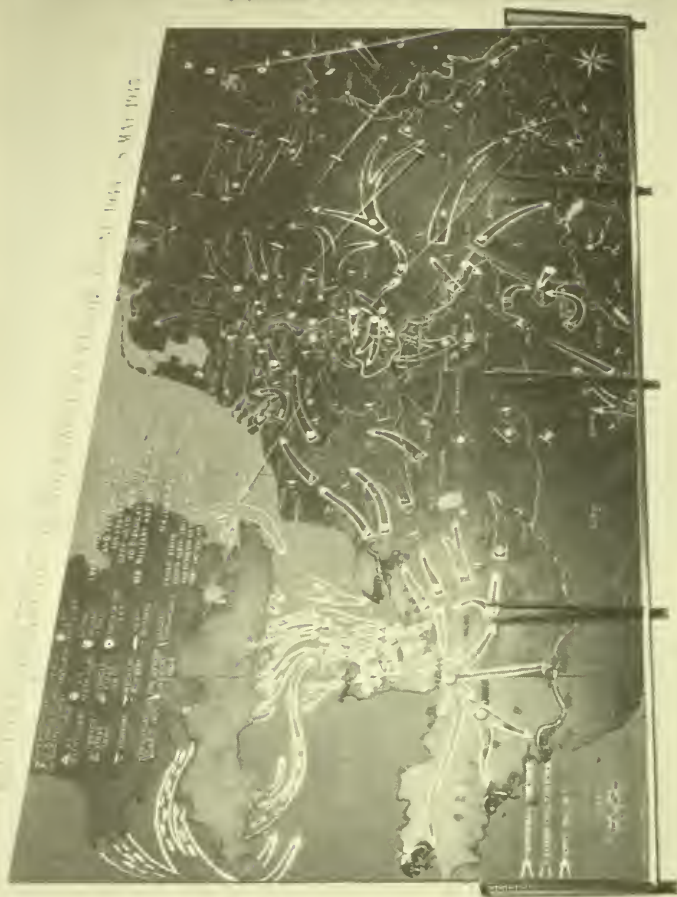
ON 2 OCTOBER THE FIRST ARMY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK NORTH OF AACHEN. AFTER SIX DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING, AIDED BY FIGHTERS AND MEDIUM BOMBERS OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE, OUR GROUND FORCES HAD PUSHED THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE AND TURNED SOUTHWARD TOWARDS

WURSELEN. UNITS TO THE EAST THEN JOINED THE ASSAULT. WHEN THE GARRISON IN AACHEN REFUSED A SURRENDER ULTIMATUM, U.S. FORCES LAUNCHED A MASSIVE AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT AGAINST THEM; FURIOUS FIGHTING MARKED THE ENEMY'S DETERMINED EFFORT TO REINFORCE THE AREA. BY 16 OCTOBER THE CITY HAD BEEN ENCIRCLED; SUCCESSIVE ATTEMPTS TO RELIEVE THE GARRISON WERE FIRMLY REPULSED. ON 21 OCTOBER AACHEN SURRENDERED, THE FIRST LARGE GERMAN CITY TO FALL INTO ALLIED HANDS.

THE U.S. NINTH ARMY THEN MOVED INTO POSITION ON THE LEFT OF THE FIRST ARMY. ON 16 NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING A DEVASTATING BOMBING BY THE EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES, OUR ARMIES LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE TOWARDS THE ROER. THE ATTACK ADVANCED SLOWLY EASTWARD AGAINST DETERMINED RESISTANCE AND FURIOUS COUNTERATTACKS. THE NATURAL BARRIER OF THE HURTGEN FOREST, NOW GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY INGENIOUS FORTIFICATIONS, PRESENTED A SERIOUS DELAYING OBSTACLE.

NOT IN YEARS HAD EUROPEAN WEATHER BEEN SO UNFAVORABLE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS BUT BY 15 DECEMBER FIRST ARMY UNITS HAD REACHED THE ROER FROM DUREN NORTHWARD. ATTACKS THROUGH THE HURTGEN FOREST WERE STILL IN PROGRESS WHEN, IN THE ARDENNES, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE ENEMY LOOSED HIS LAST GREAT COUNTEROFFENSIVE OF THE WAR. THE FIRST ARMY MOVED INSTANTLY TO MEET THE THREAT, SUSPENDING OFFENSIVE ACTION IN THE HURTGEN FOREST AREA UNTIL AFTER THE VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN ON 25 JANUARY 1945.

The maps were designed by Sante Graziani of Worcester, Massachusetts, from information furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission. They were fabricated by Enrico Pandolfini of Pietrasanta, Italy. In the center of the room is a stand

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Map of Military Operations in Northwestern Europe—Key Maps in Foreground.



Combined Museum and Visitors' Room—Operations Map "Aachen and the Advance to the Roer".

of white Carrara marble bearing the two sets of key maps, "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."

THE GRAVES AREA

East of the colonnade a terrace affords a prospect over the burial area. Immediately in front is the bronze statue of the Archangel bestowing the laurel branch upon the heroic Dead for whom he makes special commendation to the Almighty. This was designed by Donal Hord of San Diego, California, and cast by Battaglia of Milan, Italy.

The graves area is divided into 8 plots, lettered "A" to "H"; these are separated by the broad axial mall and by longitudinal grass paths. The 7,984 headstones are arranged in broad sweeping curves upon the gently sloping lawn. These Dead came from 49 States, and from the District of

Columbia, Panama, and England. Among the graves are 32 cases in which 2 brothers rest side by side, and one instance of 3 brothers; also there are headstones marking the tombs of 94 Unknowns.

Within the graves areas Birch (*Betula alba* and *B. nigra*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) have been planted and free growing Box has been massed in groups against the surrounding walls. The central mall terminates in a wall-enclosed flagpole plaza, backed by a cove of oak and spruce trees. On the wall is the inscription IN HONORED MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY. Beyond the wall also are groups of Rhododendron ponticum and shrubby Chestnut (*Aesculus parviflora*) and a number of Norway Spruce.

The cemetery and memorial were completed in 1961.

The Memorial From the Graves Area.





*Youth Triumphant Over Evil—Brittany Memorial.
(Lee Lawrie, Sculptor.)*

AMERICAN MILITARY Cemeteries & Memorials OF WORLD WAR II

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION is responsible to the people of the United States for the construction and permanent maintenance of military cemeteries and memorials built by the United States Government on foreign soil. It is not responsible

for construction, maintenance, or operation of cemeteries in the continental United States or its Territories and possessions.

After World War I the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight



To the Missing—World War II Loggia—Suresnes. (Lewis Iselin, Sculptor.)

military cemeteries already established by the War Department, as well as eleven monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our Armed Forces.¹

By the end of World War II several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next-of-kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 171,000, representing 61 per cent of the recovered bodies. The remaining 39 per cent were given final interment in the cemeteries on foreign soil; and in the

cemeteries at Honolulu, Sitka and Puerto Rico (which remain under Army control).

Fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries in 1947 by the Secretary of the Army, with the assistance of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Their locations reflect the progress of the

¹ These were: Cemeteries: Brookwood, England; Suresnes, Oise-Aisne (Fere-en-Tardenois), Aisne-Marne (Belleau), Somme (Bony), St. Mihiel (Thiaucourt), Meuse-Argonne (Romagne), France; Waregem, Belgium. Monuments: Brest, Cantigny, Bellicourt, Chateau-Thierry, Somme-Py, Montfaucon, Montsec, Tours, France; Kemmel, Audenarde, Belgium; Gibraltar. Tablets: Chaumont, Souilly, France.

military operations; they were selected with a view to their accessibility, aspect, prospect, drainage, and other practical considerations. In every case use of the site in perpetuity was granted by the host government to the United States, free of cost, rent, and taxes. The remainder of the “temporary”

cemetery sites reverted to the landowners upon completion of reburial operations.

The fourteen permanent World War II cemeteries with numbers of graves including Unknowns, and the numbers of Missing recorded at the Memorials are:

	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>List of Missing</i>
Cambridge, England	3,811 including	24	5, 125
Normandy (near St. Laurent-sur-Mer, Calvados), France.	9,386 including	307	1, 557
Brittany (near St. James, Manche), France.	4,410 including	95	498
Epinal, France	5,255 including	69	424
Lorraine (at St. Avold, Moselle), France.	10,489 including	151	444
Rhône (at Draguignan, Var), France.	861 including	62	293
Netherlands (near Margraten), Holland.	8,301 including	105	1, 720
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium	7,989 including	89	451
Ardennes (near Neuville-en-Condroz), Belgium.	5,250 including	744	462
Luxembourg, Luxembourg	5,076 including	101	370
Florence, Italy	4,402 including	212	1, 409
Sicily-Rome (Nettuno, near Rome), Italy.	7,862 including	488	3, 094
North Africa (near Carthage), Tunisia.	2,840 including	240	3, 724
Philippines (near Manila)	17,182 including	3, 744	36, 279

In addition, 24 Unknowns of World War II were interred in the World War I cemetery at Suresnes, near Paris.²

The following World War II cemeteries are maintained by the Department of the Army:

	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>List of Missing</i>
Honolulu, T. H. ³	13,510 including	2, 009	18, 106
Puerto Rico	69
Sitka, Alaska	72 including	5

In 1947 the American Battle Monuments Commission selected fourteen outstanding American architects, each

to design one of the cemeteries, conceiving the graves plots and a monument as complementary elements of an

² See page 18 concerning World War II memorial.
³ See page 21 concerning memorial.



integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the respective regions. Upon approval of the general schemes by the Commission, and by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, the architects' plans of the graves plots were followed by the American Graves Registration Service

in making the permanent burials of those remains which, by decision of the next-of-kin, were to remain overseas. This timely cooperation of the two agencies contributed appreciably to the coherence of the development of the cemetery designs.

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been



virtually completed, the cemeteries were progressively transferred to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Executive Order, for construction and maintenance. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects' designs were carried out, step by step—grading; installation of a system of reinforced-concrete beams on piles

to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water-supply and distribution systems; utilities buildings; roads and paths; plantings; and the erection of the memorials.

To provide against dry seasons and the occasional real drought, each ceme-

tery is equipped with storage reservoirs and a high-pressure sprinkling system.

For the design of the various memorials no specific requirement was imposed upon the architects beyond the budgeted cost, except that each should embody these features:

A small devotional chapel.

Inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region.

A graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops.

These requirements have been interpreted in a wide, and interesting, variety of forms.

An important motive for the construction of the memorials was the implied undertaking by our Government to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since, by Department orders, the erection of monuments by the troops (which unfortunately have been found to be often poorly-designed, poorly constructed and lacking provision for maintenance) was expressly forbidden. The "permanent graphic" record takes the form of maps, usually quite large murals, amplified by descriptive texts in English as well as the language of the country in which the cemetery is situated. The historical data (in the form of map layouts and texts) were prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission; the maps were rendered in tasteful presentation by experienced artists. In no two cases is the method—or even the materials—the same; the map may be of layered marbles, or in fresco, perhaps in bronze relief, or in ceramics. Another feature of interest at each memorial is the two sets of "Key-Maps": "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan". Each set consists of three maps, each covering about one-third of the period of our participation in the war. By these Key-Maps each major battle may be related to all others in time and space.

With each architect an American landscape architect, an American

sculptor and an American muralist or painter ordinarily collaborated. Their talents have made a major contribution to the beauty and dignity of the Memorials all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials, as well as of most of the works of art, was effected by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

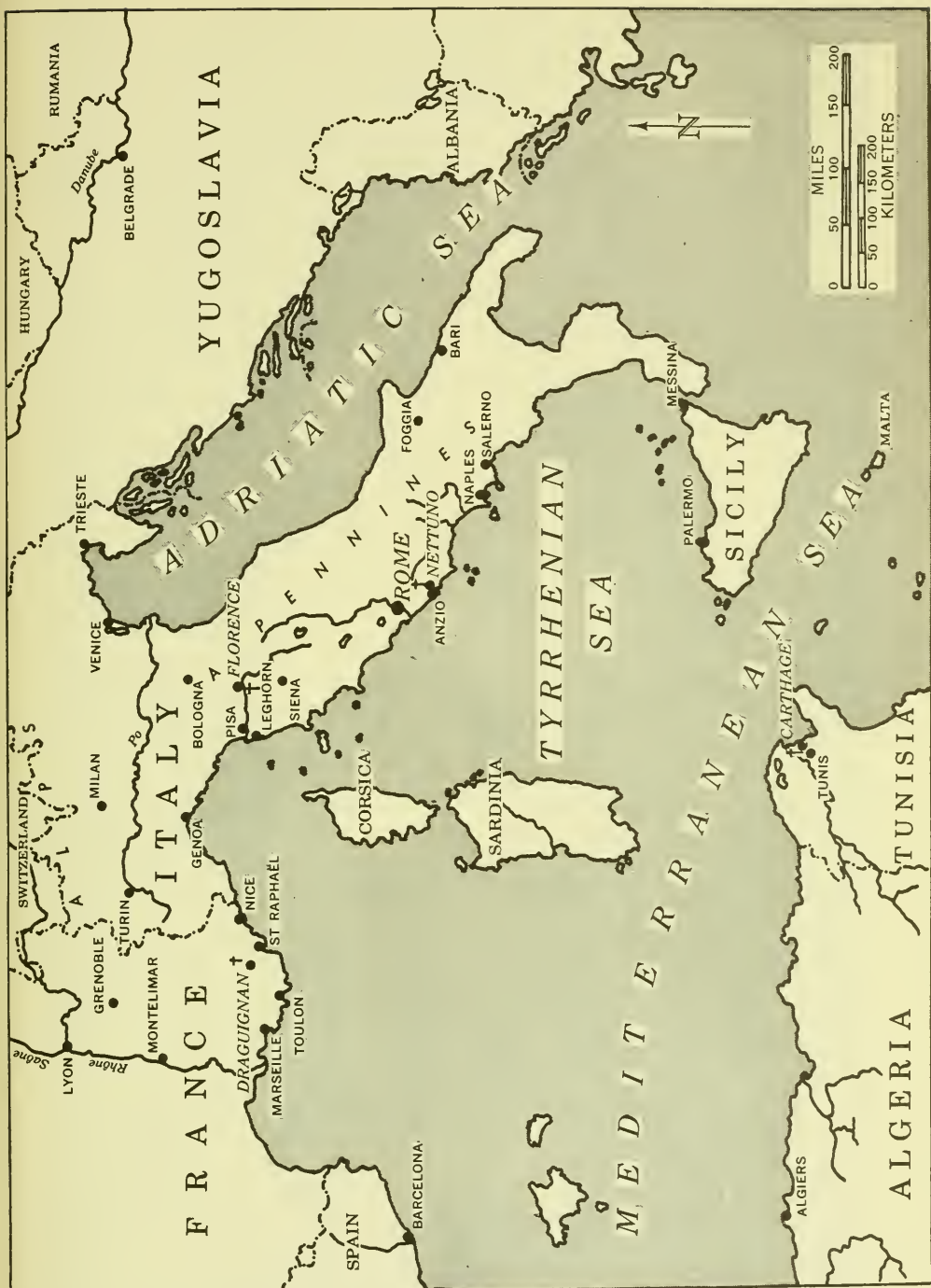
Each grave is marked by a headstone of white marble, of the same designs as those used in the overseas cemeteries of World War I—a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, a Latin Cross for all others. These headstones were quarried and fabricated in the Italian Tyrol, northwest of Venice, except about one-half of those at the Philippines cemetery which came from the region of Carrara in western Italy. Each headstone bears the deceased's name, rank, service number, organization, date of death, and State or Territory from which he entered the military service. Headstones of the Unknowns, i. e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

The lists of Missing (which include the unidentified and those lost and buried at sea) give name, rank, organization and State; the conditions under which death occurred were usually such as to deny the possibility of recording the exact date.

In addition to the fourteen World War II cemeteries and Memorials, the American Battle Monuments Commission program includes the following:

SURESNES

As previously stated, 24 World War II Unknowns were interred in this World War I cemetery. Here, where senior representatives of the French and United States Governments on ceremonial occasions pay homage to our Dead, the World War I chapel was, by addition of two loggias, converted





"Memory"—World War II Memorial Chamber—Suresnes. (Lewis Iselin, Sculptor.)

into a shrine to commemorate our Dead of both wars.

The wall of the World War II loggia bears this inscription:

TO THE ETERNAL MEMORY OF 360,817 AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II. OF THIS HOST 106,808 REST IN EIGHTEEN OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES. THE REMAINS OF 175,110 WERE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND. OF THOSE RESTING IN THE OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES 8,483 HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. THEIRS ARE AMONG THE 78,917 NAMES OF THOSE MISSING IN ACTION OR LOST OR BURIED AT SEA WHICH ARE RECORDED UPON THE WALLS OF THE CEMETERY MEMORIALS. * * * INTO THY HANDS O LORD.

Within the World War II memorial chamber is engraved:

THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF HER SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES AND AIRMEN WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN ALL QUARTERS OF THE EARTH THAT OTHER PEOPLES MIGHT BE FREED FROM OPPRESSION * * * LET US HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE HONORED DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,596 Americans who, in or above the waters off the east coasts of North and South America, gave their lives in the service of their Country their names and particulars are to be inscribed on a memorial to be erected at New York.

WEST COAST MEMORIAL

Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their Country off the west coasts of the Americas will be recorded at a memorial to be erected at San Francisco.

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the military cemetery at Honolulu is maintained by the Department of the Army, the American Battle Monuments Commission, by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, is erecting a memorial therein, similar to those built in the other overseas cemeteries. Buried here are 13,507 Dead of World War II who died in the military operations in the Pacific Ocean area. The memorial records the names of 18,093 Missing of World War II and 8,107 Missing in Korea. The memorial will also embody the customary chapel and maps.

MAINTENANCE

Permanent maintenance of the cemeteries is a responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in each case are American war veterans.

At each cemetery there is a Visitors' Building, with comfortably furnished reception room. Here visitors may be informed as to the location of graves (or inscription of the Missing) at any overseas cemetery.

The cemeteries are open every day of the year. Photography is permitted at the cemeteries and monuments without special authorization, except when photography is to be used for commercial purposes—in such case permission must be obtained from the Commission's local office.

Unlike the national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Quartermaster General, Department of the Army, there can be no further burials in the American military cemeteries overseas except of those remains which may, in the future, be found on the battlefields.

FLOWERS

In the general interest, the decoration of graves with natural cut flowers only is permitted. The Commission is happy to assist interested persons to arrange with local florists in foreign

countries for placing such decorations. Requests should be mailed so as to arrive at the appropriate Commission office at least 5 days before the date of decoration and should be accompanied by check or international money order in dollars or local currency. Deposits may be made for a single decoration on a particular day—birthday, Memorial Day, Christmas Day, for example—or for several decorations on particular dates within the year or over a period of years. Checks should be made payable to “The American Battle Monuments Commission, Flower Fund”, money orders to “The American Battle Monuments Commission”. Requests should be addressed to the Commission’s Paris office, except in the case of Florence, Sicily-Rome (Nettuno) and North Africa (Carthage) Cemeteries where the Rome office is responsible, and Manila where the Manila office is responsible.

Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local

florist who is a member of the “Florists Telegraph Delivery Association.” In addition to the name of the deceased, the rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located, and the location by plot, row, and grave should be provided if known.

Further information regarding cemeteries and memorials may be obtained at the Commission’s offices in Washington, Paris, Rome, or Manila. Visitors passing through these cities are invited to call. The Commission’s representatives there may be of some assistance in verifying travel routes and schedules, and also in furnishing information concerning overnight accommodations.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Upon the request of the bona fide next of kin, the Commission will furnish one photograph of the appropriate headstone or inscription engraved on the Wall of the Missing.

Suresnes Memorial With World War I and II Loggias.



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

United States Office

Washington 25, D. C.
Telephone: Liberty 5-6700
Extension 63679
Telegrams: Monuments, Washington

Mediterranean Office

American Embassy,
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